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25X1 [redacted]

1. A steel plant with an open hearth and an electric oven is to be built at Eisenhuettenkombinat Ost, Fuerstenberg. The charge for the ovens is to be provided by the EKO blast furnaces. At present the furnaces are producing 500 tons of steel daily. The EKO sintering installation is running smoothly; it is supplying sintered ore for the furnaces. EKO Blast Furnace I is scheduled to undergo a general repair in the near future.

2. Facilities for the handling of five ton blooms are planned for Walzwerk Ilsenburg. Until the new capacity is achieved, the plant will continue to be able to roll only blooms of two and one half tons. According to the new program, heavier plates are to be rolled in larger quantities; production is eventually to include armor plate. Larger annealing furnaces are being built to carry out the new plan. The deadline for having the new equipment functioning is 31 December 1952.

3. Blooms are reported to be produced at Maxhuette Unterwellenborn by the Krupp smelting method; this process is said to improve the quality of charges for the steel ovens. Use of a high percentage of scrap in the ovens has in the past resulted in bad quality steel. This deficiency is to be remedied by the Krupp method. Ernst Thaelmannwerk, SAG Amo, Magdeburg, is to supervise the construction of the installation. The deadline for the completion and start of operations at the plant is also 31 December 1952. Production from the plant is included in DDR 1953 plans.

4. The Zentral onstruktionsbuero is working on plans for a new pig iron works. It is rumored that the new plant will be built in the vicinity of Lauchhammer. This is a priority plan.

5. A pig iron mixer (Roheisenmischer) is being built at Maxhuette-Unterwellenborn. It is to have a capacity of 1,000 tons and is to improve quality (sic).

6. Production at EKW-Calbe/Saale is still unsatisfactory because the new type of low-shaft furnaces (Niederschachtoefen)are not functioning as it was indicated they would in laboratory tests. The furnace vaults are subject to repeated collapse (einfallen) because of the heat.

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